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A MOST IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF

AGRICULTURE IN THE USSR

by D. Yakubkin

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A MOST IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF

AGRICULTURE IN THE USSR

/ Following is a translation of an article by D. Yakushkin in the Russian-language periodical Vestnik statistiki (Review of Statistics), Moscow, No. 12, 1959, pages 7-19.

The accelerated development of agriculture is of great significance in the construction of Communism in our country. Along with a powerful industry, the Soviet Union needs a rapidly growing agriculture with well-rounded development, capable of providing in abundance the population with food products and industry with raw materials.

In the not-too-distant past, during the period preceding the September (1953) Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the growth in agricultural production slowed down due to great shortcomings in the management of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. A certain lack of conformity arose between the development of industry and agriculture, and between the country's requirements for agricultural products and the actual production output.

The shortcomings existing in the management of agriculture were boldly exposed at the September and subsequent plenums of the Central Committee of the party, and truly revolutionary measures were worked out for eliminating them and for further strengthening the kolkhoz system and developing sovkhozes. The Party organized a nation-wide struggle for a sharp upsurge in agriculture, for a sharp increase in the production of grain and animal products, and for an acceleration in the development of all branches of agriculture.

The efforts of the Party and of the whole Soviet people in the struggle for an upsurge in agriculture ended in an outstanding success. During the last 5 years a fundamental breakthrough has occurred in the development of agriculture, and remarkable successes have been achieved.

"The successful realization of the planned program to increase the production of agricultural

products," said comrade N. S. Khrushchev in a report at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU in December of last year, "was a great contribution to the further economic development of the Soviet state, to the strengthening of its might, and to an increase in the standard of living of the Soviet people."

In the light of the successes achieved, it is impossible not to mention once more how remote from life was the anti-Party group of Malenkov, Kaganovich, Molotov, Bulganin, and Shepilov, who opposed the vital interests of the people, tried to frustrate the fulfillment of the decisions of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and fought against the implementation of the line worked out at the 20th Congress of the CPSU in all the very important problems of domestic and foreign policy.

The results achieved during recent years in the field of the development of agriculture are an especially convincing demonstration of the great possibilities inherent in the socialist form of economy and of the rapid rates at which the socialist economy can develop.

The Growth in Socialist Crop Raising and the Increase in the Grain Harvests

It is well known that the weather conditions of individual years have a great effect on the level of agricultural production. For this reason, a comparison of the results of two agricultural years is not always sufficiently conclusive. That is why average annual data for a longer period are especially interesting. If we compare the average annual gross agricultural output during the recent five-year plan periods, in comparable prices, we see that average annual gross agricultural output during 1954-1958 was 35 percent greater than during the previous five-year period (1949-1953), and amounted to 400.5 billion rubles. The average annual gross output in crop growing increased from 182.8 billion rubles to 237.4 billion rubles, or by 30 percent, and the gross output in animal husbandry increased from 114.4 billion rubles to 163.1 billion rubles, or by 43 percent. The considerably greater rate of growth

in the output of animal products is an indication of important qualitative changes in the country's agricultural production, which has become more intensive and skilled during recent years.

When starting to implement decisive measures for an upsurge in agriculture, the Party first worked on the problem of increasing the production of grain, reasoning that grain growing is the basis of agricultural production. Grain production in 1953 was far from satisfying the country's growing requirements for grain. Actually, for a long time grain production had remained almost at the prerevolutionary level. Decisive and urgent measures were needed to increase grain resources. The most effective solution of this problem was found in the development of the virgin and fallow lands. This work was carried out on an unprecedented scale; During a short period, 1954-1956, 36 million hectares of virgin land was plowed. The significance of this nation-wide achievement for agricultural production is apparent from the fact that in 1958, of the 66.6 million hectares sown with wheat in the country, 43.5 million hectares were in the basic regions of development of virgin and fallow land.

The changes in the distribution of grain production as the result of the development of virgin and fallow lands are shown by the following data on state grain procurements and purchases:

STATE PROCUREMENTS AND PURCHASES OF GRAIN

	Million Tons		Percent of USSR Total	
	Annual Average		Annual Average	
	1949-1954	1954-1958	1949-1954	1954-1958
USSR	32.8	43.6	31.1	56.8
Ukrainian SSR	9.4	7.5	9.0	9.1
Basic regions of virgin land development	9.8	23.1	10.8	32.8
Kazakh SSR	1.8	8.3	2.4	15.1
The regions of Siberia, the Far East, the Urals, and the Volga	8.0	14.8	8.4	17.7

Another important source for increasing grain production which played an important role in solving the grain problem was the increase in the production of corn.

In 1958, 8.1 million hectares were sown with corn for grain, 2.3 times the area sown in 1953; and the total sowing of corn for grain, silage, and green fodder was 15.7 times that of 1953 and amounted to 19.7 million hectares. The gross harvest of corn grain in 1958 was over a billion poods, with a yield, in terms of dry grain, of 20.6 centners per hectare. In many regions of the Ukraine, the Northern Caucasus, and Moldavia, corn was the deciding factor in increasing the gross harvest of grain. Data on the increase in the proportion of corn in the gross grain harvest follow:

	Gross Harvest of Corn Grain (1,000 tons)		In Percent of Gross Harvest of all Grain Crops	
	1953	1958	1953	1958
USSR	3,697	16,720	4.5	11.8
Northern Caucasus Regions	682	4,058	8.5	22.9
Ukrainian SSR	1,981	8,986	9.3	28.7
Moldavian SSR	411	1,249	29.2	53.0

The gross harvest of grain crops also increased due to an increase in grain-crop yields. During 1949-1953, the average annual yield of grain crops was 7.7 centners per hectare; during the five-year period of 1954-1958 it had increased to 9.2 centners, and in 1958 the average annual yield of grain crops was 11.3 centners per hectare.

As a result of the great work done by the Party during recent years, the gross harvest of grain in 1958 amounted to 141.2 million tons, 71 percent greater than the 1953 gross harvest. State procurements of grain amounted to 3.5 billion poods in 1958, of which 2 billion poods were procured in the regions of virginland development. This was the first time that such a volume of grain production and procurement had been achieved in our country.

A regular increase in grain production, as

provided by the Seven-Year Plan, will continue to be a main line in crop growing in the future. However, the basic source for the further expansion in grain production at the present stage of agricultural development is not an expansion in sown area, as it has been in recent years, but an increase in the yield of grain. All of the necessary prerequisites have now been created for this. Achievement of the average increase of 3-4 centners per hectare in the yield of grain crops called for by the Seven-Year Plan will ensure fulfillment and overfulfillment of the tasks established by the plan for the gross harvest of grain.

Along with an increase in the production of grain, a regular increase in the gross harvests of other agricultural crops has also occurred during recent years in the USSR.

THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROSS HARVEST DURING THE TWO FIVE-YEAR PLAN PERIODS (million tons)

	Average Annual Harvest during the 1954-1958 (Average Annual Harvest during 1949-1953 =	1949-1953	1954-1958	100)
Sugar beets	21.11	35.49	168	
Raw cotton (procurements and purchases)	3.49	4.20	120	
Flax fiber	0.23	0.40	176	
Oil seeds	2.51	3.86	154	
Sunflower seeds	2.05	3.42	167	
Potatoes	75.75	83.43	110	
Vegetables	10.0	14.0	140	
Fruits and berries	2.23	2.84	127	
Grapes	0.84	1.34	159	

Great successes have been achieved during recent years in the production of sugar beets. During the past 5 years the area sown with sugar beets increased by almost a million hectares. The data on the

growth in the yield of sugar beets are interesting. During 1928-1932 the average annual yield was 95 centners per hectare, and during 1954-1958 it was 174 centners; moreover, in 1958 the yield of sugar beets was 218 centners per hectare.

Achievements in cotton growing have been considerable. During 1954-1958 the average annual procurement of raw cotton was 4 times that during 1928-1932. The country's cotton growers delivered or sold to the state 4.4 million tons of cotton in 1958. For a number of years the Soviet Union has been first in the world in cotton yield. In 1958 the yield of cotton fiber in the US was 5.3 centners per hectare; in Egypt it was 5.5 centners, and in Pakistan, 2.1 centners. In the USSR, state procurements and purchases of raw cotton on the average per hectare in 1958 amounted to 20.4 centners, which is approximately 7 centners in terms of fiber.

The great successes in the production of flax, hemp, and oil crops should be noted. State procurements of flax fiber during the last 5-year plan were almost double those of the preceding 5-year plan. With the same sown area as 5 years earlier, the country harvested 4.6 million tons of sunflower seed in 1958, 2 million tons more than in 1953.

Serious measures were needed to eliminate the lag in the production of potatoes and vegetables. Average annual state procurements and purchases of potatoes during the 1954-1958 Five-Year Plan period were 22 percent greater than procurements during the preceding Five-Year Plan. The gross harvest of vegetables was 14.9 million tons in 1958 as compared with 11.4 million tons in 1953. The most effective means for obtaining cheap potatoes and vegetables was the establishment of large specialized soykhozes in suburban regions.

There have been considerable successes during recent years in the development of orchards and vineyards. The area planted with fruit and berries (excluding citrus fruit) in 1958 was 789,000 hectares, or 36 percent greater than in 1952; and the area of vineyards was 399,000 hectares greater than in 1953, more than doubled.

Thus there have been outstanding successes in the development of all branches of socialist crop

growing during recent years. This is a matter not only of a great quantitative growth, but also of great structural shifts signifying rapid progress in agricultural production. The most important element in these deep qualitative changes was the growth in animal husbandry.

The Upsurge in Collective Animal Husbandry

The decisions of the September (1953) plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU opened the path for a rapid upsurge in the most complicated branch of agriculture, animal husbandry. In the program for the development of animal husbandry planned by the Party's Central Committee, the goals for a further growth in animal husbandry were considered as indissolubly connected with the general problems in the upsurge of agriculture, primarily with the solving of the task of increasing grain production.

The cornerstone of this program, the condition without which it would have been impossible to have any kind of complete utilization of the great possibilities for increasing the output of animal husbandry products, was the strengthening of the fodder base. During 5 years, from 1953 to 1958, the area sown with fodder crops increased from 28.7 million hectares to 46.5 million hectares. The area sown with grain-forage crops increased by 4.2 million hectares, the area sown with silage crops increased by 5.8 million hectares, and the area sown with grasses increased by 12.3 million hectares. It should be noted that the rapid growth in the production of fodder was first of all due to the successes in the cultivation of corn. This was why it was possible to increase the storage of silage in kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

In 1953 the kolkhozes and sovkhozes stored 32 million tons of silage, but in 1958 the amount of silage stored increased to 148 million tons, including 107.5 million tons of the highest-quality silage -- corn. The volume of silage stored in kolkhozes and sovkhozes per cow was 10.6 tons, 7.4 tons more than in 1953.

The growth in the procurement of silage was a decisive factor in the expansion in the production

of milk and in the increase in the productivity of dairy animal husbandry. For a number of years the milk yield in kolkhozes had ranged around a thousand kilograms per cow. Beginning in 1954, the average annual yield of milk per cow in kolkhozes began to increase steadily, and in 1958 it amounted to 1,913 kilograms as compared with 1,016 kilograms in 1953. Almost 25,000 kolkhozes, over 1/3 of all the kolkhozes, achieved average yields of over 2,000 kilograms of milk per cow. Even greater productivity was achieved in sovkhozes. With an average yield of 2,256 kilograms of milk per cow in sovkhozes, 1/6 of the total number of sovkhozes achieved an average annual yield of over 3,000 kilograms.

A very important indicator of the successes in the development of animal husbandry is the increase in the number of livestock. The changes in the number of productive livestock during recent years is shown below:

**GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PRODUCTIVE LIVESTOCK
BETWEEN 1 JANUARY 1954 AND 1 JANUARY 1959
(million head)**

	1954	1959	over 1954 (1954 = 100)
Cattle	55.8	70.8	126.9
Cows	25.2	33.3	132.1
Swine	33.3	48.7	146.2
Sheep	99.8	129.9	130.2

A distinctive peculiarity of the development of animal husbandry during recent years is that the growth in collective animal husbandry in kolkhozes and sovkhozes has considerably outstripped the growth in the number of livestock in all categories of farms as a whole. While the number of cows in all categories of farms on 1 January 1959 was 32 percent greater than on 1 January 1954, the number in kolkhozes and sovkhozes was 46 percent greater; during the same period the number of swine increased by 46 percent in all categories and by 83 percent in kolkhozes and sovkhozes. During the prewar years (1938) the cattle in kolkhozes and state farms comprised 36 percent of the total number of cattle, and swine

comprised 35 percent. At the beginning of 1959 collectively owned livestock in kolkhozes and state farms comprised 59 percent of the total for cattle and 69 percent of the total for swine.

The growth in the number of livestock along with the increase in livestock productivity brought about an increase in the production of meat during recent years. In 1958 meat production was 1.9 million tons greater than in 1953. In the Soviet Union 37 kilograms of meat are now being produced per capita as compared with 31 kilograms in 1953.

The problem of increasing meat production is a most difficult one. Great efforts and a comparatively long time are required to solve it. In achieving a growth in the production of meat the Party devoted special attention to the development of the branches of animal husbandry with the most early maturing the raising of swine and poultry. With a total growth in meat production in 1957 of 57 percent over 1940, the production of pork increased by 94 percent and that of poultry meat increased by 102 percent. The production of beef and mutton also increased during these years. However, a further growth in the production of these products depends on an increase in the number of cattle and sheep, which requires a long period.

It is interesting to note the qualitative changes which have occurred in sheep raising. As the result of the increase in the number of fine-fleeced sheep in kolkhozes and sovkhoses from 6.8 million in 1953 to 14.1 million in 1957, the amount of fine wool produced increased from 310,000 centners to 728,000 centners. While in 1953 only 14 percent of the total production of sheep's wool was fine wool, in 1958 fine wool comprised 29 percent of the total production of sheep's wool.

The growth in the production of basic animal products during the 1954-1957 Five-Year Plan is as follows:

PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS (1,000 TONS)

	1953	1958	(1953 = 100)
Meat and fat (slaughter weight)	5,822	7,675	132

	1953	1958	1958
Pork	2,305	3,862	1142
Milk	36,475	58,770	161
Wool	235	320	136
Eggs (million units)	16,059	23,054	144

The growth in the production of animal products brought about an increase in the volume of state procurements. Also, while some time ago deliveries from kolkhozniks', workers' and employees' farms predominated in state procurements of animal products (which of course did not provide a stable base for supplying the country), now the basic suppliers of animal products are the kolkhozes and sovkhoses. In 1958 their share in the total procurements was 84 percent for meat, 89 percent for milk, and 57 percent for eggs.

Strengthening the Material-Technical Base in Agriculture

The Communist Party has devoted great attention during recent years to strengthening the material-technical base in agriculture. Total capital investments by the state and kolkhozes in agriculture during 1954-1958 amounted to 209 billion rubles, considerably exceeding capital investments for these same purposes during the whole preceding 36 years, which amounted, in comparable prices, to 189 billion rubles.

The growth in capital investments in the country's agriculture, in comparable prices, during the postwar period is apparent from the following data:

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE (BILLION RUBLES)

Capital investments in agriculture by the state and by kolkhozes

Fourth Five-Year Plan (1946-1950)	1951	1952
56.0	56.0	56.0

Fifth	129.7
Five-Year Plan (1951-1955)	
1956	43.3
1957	44.9
1958	50.4

The value of fixed production capital of socialist agricultural enterprises (according to a balance-sheet evaluation without deducting the value of depreciation) at the end of 1957 amounted to 248.9 billion rubles, an increase of almost 100 billion rubles over 1953.

In 1958 agricultural power capacity amounted to 138.1 million h.p. as compared with 87.8 million h.p. in 1953 and 47.5 million h.p. in 1940. In 1958, in kolkhozes, machine-tractor stations, and sovkhoses, there was 4.4 h.p. per worker as compared with 1.5 h.p. in 1940. Consumption of electric power in agricultural increased from 538 million kw-hrs in 1940 and 2,742,000,000 kw-hrs in 1953 to 3,842,000,000 kw-hrs in 1958.

At the end of 1958 there were 1,744,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.) as compared with 1,239,000 in 1953. The number of grain combines increased during these years from 318,000 to 500,000; the number of trucks increased from 424,000 to 700,000. The number of other agricultural machines also increased sharply.

The growth in the number of tractors and machines was the direct result of the expansion of tractor building and agricultural machine building. In 1953 the country produced 111,300 tractors (in units), and in 1958 it produced 219,700. The growth in the production of row-crop tractors, being used more and more extensively, is of especially great importance. The production of row-crop tractors increased from 26,500 in 1953 to 113,600 in 1958. In 1953 industry produced only 500 corn-harvesting combines, and did not produce any silage-harvesting combines at all. In 1957 the production of corn-harvesting combines amounted to 31,400, and of silage-harvesting combines, to 54,800.

While in 1953 only 4,000 beet combines were operating in the kolkhoz and sovkhos fields, in 1957 there were already 28,500. Thanks to this, the share

of sugar beets harvested by combines in kolkhozes increased from 6 percent in 1953 to 54 percent in 1958.

Of great significance for an increase in crops and for a further growth in labor productivity was the organization of the extensive production of tractor-mounted agricultural machines, more productive than tractor-drawn machines, cheaper, consuming less metal, and at the same time promoting higher-quality agricultural work. Of the 164,000 tractor plows produced in 1958 by the agricultural machine-building plants, 111,000 were tractor-mounted; of the 177,000 tractor cultivators produced, 132,000 were tractor-mounted.

It is thanks to the organization of the extensive production of row-crop tractors, seeders for checkrow-cluster sowing, and cultivators that it became possible to use the checkrow-cluster and checkrow methods of sowing and planting row crops on a mass scale, opening a new page in the cultivation of these crops.

As the result of the better supplying of kolkhozes and sovkhoses with machines, it has become possible to achieve a complex mechanization of production in which all processes are handled by machines and mechanisms without exception. After achieving the complex cultivation of corn and sunflowers, the complex mechanization of cotton and sugar beet cultivation is being effected more and more extensively.

The strengthening of the material-technical base in agriculture has enabled the kolkhozes and sovkhoses to make extensive use of such a huge reserve for increasing the yield as inorganic fertilizers. The production and delivery to agriculture of inorganic fertilizers has increased sharply during recent years. In 1958 the production of inorganic fertilizers amounted to 12.4 million tons as compared with 7 million tons in 1953.

Strengthening the Economy of Kolkhozes and Raising the Material Well-Being of the Kolkhozniks

During recent years the Communist Party and the Government have implemented a number of important economic measures intended to restore the Lenin principle of material incentives for kolkhozes and

kolkhozniks to develop the collective economy of the kolkhoz. It was the violation of this principle which was one of the chief causes for the serious lag in agriculture in the not-too-distant past.

Procurement and purchase prices on the majority of agricultural products were increased considerably. The kolkhozes, which had formerly had no incentive to develop certain branches of agriculture since they brought little profit, began to develop them successfully. The great importance of this measure in achieving an upsurge in agricultural production can be seen in the example of flax raising. During the war this branch underwent great harm. During the postwar years flax planting was restored slowly. An increase in procurement prices for flax fiber in 1954 increased the incentive for kolkhozes and kolkhozniks to develop flax raising. The agricultural technique of cultivating this crop was considerably improved. The yield of flax fiber increased from 1.3 centners per hectare in 1953 to 2.7 centners in 1958. The gross harvest of flax fiber in 1958 amounted to 438,000 tons as compared with 162,000 tons in 1953.

Of importance in raising the material well-being of the kolkhozniks was the abolition of the agricultural tax and of obligatory deliveries of agricultural products for farms belonging to kolkhozniks, workers, and employees.

The material incentive for kolkhozes and kolkhozniks to develop all branches of agriculture was increased to an even greater degree as the result of the conversion to a standard form of state procurement -- to purchases of agricultural products at standard prices differentiated by zones. The elimination of the extreme centralization which had existed and the reorganization of the whole system of agricultural planning gave scope to kolkhoz initiative, and created the conditions necessary for complete utilization of the reserves of collective production.

The increase in the material incentive for kolkhozniks to develop the collectively-owned farm promoted changes in the organization of remuneration in kolkhozes. Having increased the procurement prices, the state organized the payment of advances to kolkhozes against future deliveries of products. While up to the 1953 monthly and quarterly payment of

advances to kolkhozniks for labor-days was conducted only in the most progressive kolkhozes, in 1956 this form was already being used in about 70 percent of the kolkhozes.

The strengthening of kolkhozes with management personnel and agricultural specialists is one of the most important measures implemented by the Party during recent years in the field of agriculture. Here are some figures. On 1 June 1953, only 18 percent of the total number of kolkhoz chairmen had either a complete higher or a complete secondary specialized education, and on 1 April 1959 the proportion was 50.4 percent. On this same date, 64,656 agronomists, 46,447 zootechnicians, 49,881 veterinary doctors, veterinary fieldshers and veterinary technicians, and 35,216 engineers and technicians (mechanics) were working in kolkhozes.

The reorganization of the MTS / mashinno-traktornyye stantsii -- machine-tractor stations / which took place in 1958, had a prominent role in strengthening the economy of the kolkhozes and further consolidated the union of the worker class and the peasants.

The concentration of all the means for large-scale mechanized production in the hands of the kolkhozes created the conditions for the successful accomplishment of the new tasks set by the Seven-Year Plan. From the time of the reorganization of the MTS up to 1 July 1959, the kolkhozes had bought about 610,000 tractors, 247,000 grain combines, and many other machines and tools. They acquired equipment worth a total of about 27 billion rubles. This includes both equipment acquired by the kolkhozes from the MTS and a large amount of new machinery and equipment purchased by the kolkhozes from the warehouses of the RTS / remontno-tekhnicheskiye stantsii -- equipment-repair stations /. Between 1 October 1958 and 1 July 1959 the kolkhozes bought new equipment from the RTS warehouses worth 5 billion rubles. As a result of the strengthening in the kolkhoz economy, kolkhoz cash income increased. The total cash income of kolkhozes increased from 44.8 billion rubles in 1953 to 131.8 billion rubles in 1958. The following data on the distribution of kolkhozes as to amount of cash income per 100 hectares

of agricultural land are of great interest.

DISTRIBUTION OF KOLKHOZES BY AMOUNT OF CASH INCOME PER 100 HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

	1953	1958
All kolkhozes	100.0	100.0
Kolkhozes with up to 20,000 rubles cash income per 100 hectares of agricultural land	72.0	15.5
Kolkhozes with over 20,000 to 50,000 rubles cash income per 100 hectares of agricultural land	19.0	40.1
Kolkhozes with over 50,000 to 100,000 rubles cash income per 100 hectares of agricultural land	5.1	27.0
Kolkhozes with over 100,000 rubles cash income per 100 hectares of agricultural land	3.9	17.4

The structure of kolkhoz cash income also changed. While in 1953, 27.5 percent of kolkhoz cash income was obtained from the sale of their products in the form of kolkhoz trade and 65 percent was obtained from deliveries and sales of products to the state and cooperatives, in 1958 the proportion of income obtained from the sale of products at kolkhoz markets had decreased to 12 percent, and the proportion obtained from sales of products to the state and to cooperatives had increased to 82 percent.

The growth in kolkhoz income and the strengthening in their economy improved the well-being of the kolkhoz peasants. In 1958 the peasants' real income, per person working, was more than twice that in 1940.

The kolkhozniks are building new houses, are acquiring more and more industrial goods, and are consuming more valuable food products. In 1958 the consumption of meat and fat in kolkhoz families was 87 percent greater than in 1940; the consumption of milk and milk products (in terms of milk) was 64

percent greater; 5.7 times as much sugar was consumed; and 3 times as many confectionery products were consumed.

The great changes which have occurred during recent years in the economy of the kolkhozes and the growth in the material interest of kolkhozes and kolkhozniks in the results of the collective production are most completely expressed in two very important indicators: the growth of labor productivity in kolkhozes and the sharp increase in the indivisible funds. In 1958 labor productivity in kolkhozes (the collectively-owned farm) was 72 percent greater than in 1950. The indivisible funds of kolkhozes, constituting the basis of kolkhoz property, amounted in 1958, per kolkhoz, to 1,825,000 rubles as compared with 770,000 rubles in 1953. A further increase in kolkhoz labor productivity and an increase in the indivisible funds are the economic bases for the development and strengthening of kolkhoz production.

The Expansion of Sovkhoz Production

Sovkhozes have always played an important role in the development of agriculture in the USSR. During the collectivization period the sovkhozes served as a clear example of the advantages of large farms for the vast peasant masses. Sovkhozes are also playing an exceptionally important role at present.

During recent years the Communist Party and the Soviet Government have devoted a great deal of attention to the development and strengthening of sovkhozes.

During 1954-1958 about 1,750 new sovkhozes were established. A large number of new sovkhozes were established during the development of the virgin and fallow lands. In the Kazakh SSR the number of sovkhozes increased from 293 to 807 during these years.

The total sown area in sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises in the country increased from 18.2 million hectares in 1953 to 56.9 million hectares in 1958. At present they contain almost one third of all the sown area in the country.

The number of cattle in sovkhoses and other state agricultural enterprises increased during 1954-1958 from 4.3 million to 9.2 million; the number of swine increased from 4.3 million to 9.9 million; and the number of sheep increased from 11.1 million to 27.0 million.

The share of sovkhos production in the total agricultural commodity output in the country is shown below:

The Share of Sovkhos Output in State Procurements

	Delivered to the State by Sovkhoses (1,000 tons)	Share of Sovkhoses in State Procurements and Purchases (%)	1953	1958	1958 (1953 = 100)	1953	1958
Grain crops	3,677	22,460	611	12	39.5		
Raw cotton	168	584	348	4	13		
Livestock and poultry	637	1,284	202	18	23		
Milk and milk products (in terms of milk)	1,855	5,022	271	17	23		

The considerable growth in labor productivity demonstrates the upsurge in sovkhos production. In 1958 labor productivity in sovkhoses was 68 percent greater than in 1950.

However, the great new tasks ahead of the sovkhoses during the Seven-Year Plan period require a further improvement in their work. This must be expressed first of all in a more rapid increase in labor productivity and in a reduction in production cost so that all branches of sovkhos production show a profit.

The most important task set by the Party in

the field of the further development of sovkhoses consists in transforming all sovkhoses into model farms in the shortest time possible.

The Economic Competition Between the USSR and the USA in the Field of Agriculture

During all the years of Soviet power, socialist agriculture has developed at more rapid rates than agriculture in capitalist countries. The average annual rate of growth of gross agricultural output in the USSR during 1930-1940 and 1946-1958 was 4.7 percent, more than 3 times the average annual rates of growth of gross agricultural output in the US. This gap has increased in recent years now that the rates of development of agriculture in the USSR have speeded up sharply.

During 1954-1958 the production of meat (slaughter weight) increased by an annual average of 6 percent in the USSR and by only 1.7 percent in the US; grain production increased by an average of 11 percent annually in the USSR and by 5.6 percent in the US; milk production increased by 10 percent in the USSR and by 0.8 percent in the US; wool production increased by 6 percent in the USSR and in the US there was no increase on the whole during this period.

The considerable successes achieved during these years in the development of agriculture have enabled the progressive kolkhozes and sovkhoses to set the task (warmly supported by all the Soviet people) of achieving such an increase in the output of animal products that the per capita production may reach that of the US in the near future.

The following table presents comparative results of the development of agricultural production in the USSR and the US during recent years:

OUTPUT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE USSR AND THE US (MILLION TONS)

	USSR	US
	1953	1958
Grain crops	82.5	141.2
Wheat	41.3	76.6
All corn (including corn of milky-waxy maturity in terms of dry grain)	3.7	16.7
Completely mature dry grain	3.7	10.2
Potatoes	72.6	86.5
Meat (including poultry meat, fat, and feet and viscera in slaughter weight)	5.8	7.7
Butter (factory and household production) (1,000 tons)	497	778
Eggs (billion)	16.1	23.1

In 1958 the Soviet Union was already producing more milk than the US. The USSR had already outstripped the US in the production of butter in 1957. As a whole, agricultural output in 1958 was 20-25 percent less than in the US.

The relationships in the per capita output of agricultural products in the USSR and the US are shown below:

PER CAPITA OUTPUT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THE USSR AND THE US (KG)

	USSR	US
	1953	1958
Grain crops	435	1,073
Wheat	218	370
All corn (including corn of milky-waxy maturity), (in terms of dry grain)	20	81
Completely mature dry grain	20	49

	1953	1958	1958
Potatoes	383	418	69
Meat (including poultry, meat, fat, and feet and viscera; in slaughter weight)	31	37	94
Milk	192	284	326
Butter	2.6	3.8	3.9
Eggs (units)	85	111	371

In 1958 the per capita output of grain crops in the USSR amounted to 63.6 percent of the US level. But the per capita production of wheat in the USSR in 1958 was 61.6 percent greater than in the US. In 1958 the per capita production of milk in the USSR amounted to 87.1 percent of the per capita production in the US, and the per capita production of butter amounted to 97.4 percent. Thus in these indicators the USSR is already very close to the US. The greatest gap is in meat. However, thanks to the high rates of development of socialist animal husbandry, this gap will also be eliminated in the not-too-distant future.

USSR agriculture is expanding production ever more rapidly, and the well-being of the Soviet people is increasing ever more rapidly. Guests from various countries have been coming to the Soviet Union recently. Each one who becomes familiar with our economy without having a preconceived opinion sees the successes in the development of Soviet agriculture. Very characteristic in this respect is the interview, printed in the American journal United States News and World Report, with the large-scale farmer from Iowa, Roswell Garst, who has visited the Soviet Union more than once and whose farm was in turn visited by N. S. Khrushchev during the latter's stay in America. In this interview, published on 15 November 1959 in Pravda, Garst recognizes the advantages of a large farm over a small one. In answer to the correspondent's question as to whether the kolkhozes and sovkhoses can become as productive as his farm, Garst said, "Oh, yes. More than that, I think they will be more productive."

The Seven-Year Plan sets great tasks for the

further development of all branches of Soviet agriculture. The results of the current agricultural year, the first year of the Seven-Year Plan, are a good beginning. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions in a number of regions, more grain has been harvested this year in the country than was harvested in the best years before the development of the virgin land. Grain procurements and purchases by 1 November 1959 exceeded the average annual procurements during 1949-1953 by 825 million poods. This year's harvest is fully satisfying all the state's needs for agricultural products.

The kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the cotton-growing regions have achieved outstanding successes in 1959. The annual plan for the sale of cotton was fulfilled on 30 November. The state was sold 4,614,000 tons of raw cotton, or 240,000 tons more than during the whole preceding year, and 761,000 tons more than was procured in 1953. Our country has never produced such a quantity of cotton during the whole history of cotton growing. The deciding condition for these great successes was the extensive introduction of progressive new methods of cultivating cotton. Checkrow-cluster sowers were used to sow about 1 million hectares in 1959, 50 percent more than in 1958, and the area of cotton sowing cultivated in 2 directions was increased to 1.5 million hectares. This means that it was possible to replace manual cultivation by mechanized cultivation in the major part of the area sown with cotton; of course this permitted improved care for the cotton.

Animal husbandry developed at especially rapid rates during 1959. While in 1953 state purchases of meat amounted to 3.6 million tons, in 1958 they had increased to 5.7 million tons, and in 1959 approximately 7.5 million tons will be purchased. This is over 2 times the 1953 amount. Milk procurements increased to an even greater degree. In 1953 they amounted to 10.6 million tons; and in 1958 to 22.1 million tons; and in 1959 it is intended to purchase 25 million tons of milk, almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the 1953 level. The production of butter, amounting to 497,000 tons in 1953, increased to 779,000 in 1958, and in 1959, 845,000 tons of butter

will be produced. Along with the growth in meat pro-
curements, the number of livestock in the country has
continued to increase. In comparison with 1 October
1958, the number of livestock in kolkhozes and sovk-
khozes on 1 October 1959 had increased by 18 percent
for cattle, including 12 percent for cows, by 19
percent for swine, by 4 percent for sheep, and by 50
percent for poultry.

Our economy's great successes are felt in the
daily life of each Soviet citizen. As the result of
the upsurge and strengthening of the economy of all
kolkhozes and sovkhozes without exception, the elim-
ination of the lag in economically weak farms, their
achievement of the level of progressive farms, the
systematic introduction into use of the achievements
of science and progressive practice, and a further
increase in the output of agricultural products will
be achieved in our country and the tasks of the
Seven-Year Plan will be successfully fulfilled.

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END